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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Agenda item 7
Half-day discussion on urban indigenous peoples and migration

Recommendations on item 7

Submitted by the Rapporteur

Half-day discussion on urban indigenous peoples and migration

1. Global migration increasingly affects indigenous peoples, creating new challenges as well as offering opportunities for improving their living conditions.

2. The Permanent Forum notes with appreciation the work done by UN-Habitat and other United Nations organizations in this field, including the research initiatives with the outcome of the publication *Indigenous Peoples' Housing Rights: A Global Overview*, published in 2006.

3. The International Expert Group Meeting on Urban Indigenous Peoples and Migration, held in Chile in March 2007, expresses its appreciation to the Government of Canada for providing funding and to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for hosting the event. It also recommends that States, United Nations and civil society organizations and all other stakeholders contribute to the implementation of the above-mentioned report.

4. The Permanent Forum urges similar support from other States, and invites ECLAC to encourage other regional commissions to strengthen their focus on indigenous peoples and issues, particularly regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the report.

5. The Permanent Forum requests that the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people undertake a study on the rights of urban indigenous peoples and migration, paying particular attention to their ability to exercise and enjoy their economic and social rights, and that this study be considered at the eighth session of the Forum. The themes that could be considered by the study include cultural identity, equitable access to essential services and the challenges facing indigenous youth.

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6. Considering the family separations caused by migration, and the psychological impact on children and women left behind, the Permanent Forum recommends that UNICEF:

(a) Conduct a comprehensive study on not only the effects of remittances, but also the psychosocial and cultural impact of migrations;

(b) Promote bilateral dialogue between origin and destination countries to ensure continuity in indigenous children's relationships with their migrant parents and the protection of migrant children;

(c) Support programming for the protection of the rights of children and women left behind.

7. The Permanent Forum urges UNICEF and the United Nations Development Fund for Women to include urban and migrant indigenous women and their children in their studies on violence against women.

8. The Permanent Forum recommends that relevant States, in cooperation with the indigenous peoples concerned, establish indigenous peoples' centres in urban areas to address the medical conditions and provide legal and other forms of assistance.

9. The Permanent Forum, in coordination with the relevant United Nations agencies, decides to conduct focus studies on the trafficking of indigenous women and children to urban centres.

10. The Permanent Forum recommends that relevant States provide mechanisms for forcibly, legally or involuntary displaced indigenous people to be able to return to their original communities, including appropriate forms of compensation and restitution and provision for sustainable livelihoods of displaced indigenous people.

11. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Special Rapporteur on migration pay special attention to the vulnerability of indigenous women and children.